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THE RESULTS OF THE CUBAN CENSUS.

BY

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The main results of the Cuban census taken last October have been given to the public in the form of three bulletins, by the director, General J. P. Sanger. These contain the figures and a discussion of the more important aspects of the population. The first bulletin relates to the total population, showing the increase and decrease since the last census taken by Spain, the density of population and its urban and rural elements. The consideration of these statistics is prefaced by an account of the division and organization of the island for local government. Bulletin No. II presents the statistics of nativity, birthplace, citizenship, sex, conjugal condition, age and literacy. The third bulletin gives literacy and citizenship statistics in detail, and was made up especially in connection with the recent municipal elections in Cuba.

The latest Spanish census of Cuba was that of 1887. By this count the total population of the island was 1,631,687. By the present census the total population was 1,572,797. The numerical loss in the twelve years amounts to 3.6% of the population in 1887. This is only a part of the actual loss, however, for allowance must be made for the normal increase of the population up to the beginning of the war. In reality a population of little less than 1,800,000 in 1895 was reduced in the following five years by the war and reconcentration policy to the present numbers—a loss approximately of 200,000 people.

The figures showing the distribution of this loss over the island and the distribution of the races and ages will be more easily appreciated if the political division of the island is understood. The whole island is divided into six provinces, these into 132 *términos municipales*, which may possibly correspond to counties, and these into smaller divisions termed *barrios*, which may be translated wards, and which number from eleven to twelve hundred. The province of Pinal del Rio, at the extreme western end of the island, is in part mountainous, and adjoins Havana, which is characterized by containing the large capital city. Matanzas on the east is followed by Santa Clara, both agricultural and rather thickly populated, and the eastern end of the island is occupied by the sparsely

populated and pastoral provinces of Puerto Principe and Santiago de Cuba. The municipal districts, into which these provinces are divided, are the principal administrative and political civil divisions of the island, and have been used as the census unit. The whole of each municipal district is divided into barrios in such a way that no distinction is made between the cities and the rural districts, and this has led to some difficulty in defining the limits of cities.

The loss of population has not been distributed evenly over the whole island, but on the contrary three of the provinces have gained in numbers since 1887. These are Puerto Principe, which increased 30.2% of its population in 1887; Santiago, which increased 20.3%, and Santa Clara, which increased 0.7%. Certain districts in other provinces showed a decided increase, among them the municipal district of Havana, which contains the city. This district gained to the extent of 20.7%; while the province outside the district of Havana suffered a loss of 15.2%. Pinar del Rio and Matanzas, on either side of Havana province, lost respectively 23.4% and 21.9%. In general, the part of the island which sustained the heaviest loss was that in the region of the centre of hostilities. The gain in the eastern part was due to its being at a distance from the scene of the struggle, and also probably to the migration of people away from the western provinces. The gain in Havana district was caused by the reconcentrados, who were collected from the surrounding rural parts of Havana, Matanzas and Pinar del Rio, and the great loss in these provinces is due to their almost complete depopulation at that time.

The average number of inhabitants to each of the 44,000 square miles of Cuba is 35.7, which is about the same density as the State of Iowa. Great diversity in this respect is seen among the several provinces, whose density of population varies from eight inhabitants to the square mile in Puerto Principe to 153 in Havana. The density of the rural population, when cities of 8,000 inhabitants or more are omitted, ranges from 6 in Puerto Principe to 55.3 in Havana province. Santiago has a scant rural population of only 21.7 to the square mile, and Matanzas and Pinar del Rio, on either side of the thickly populated Havana, have densities of 39 and 32.8 respectively. Puerto Principe is the principal grazing region; Matanzas and Santa Clara contain most of the great sugar plantations, and Pinar del Rio is the principal region of tobacco culture.

The number of large cities in Cuba has always been remarked, but the high percentage of the population which the returns of this census have shown to be urban is a matter for surprise. Cuba

has a larger proportion of its people living in cities of 8,000 and over than the United States, 29.2% of the population of this country belonging to this class in 1890, while in Cuba the proportion is 32.3%. Including all cities down to 1,000 inhabitants 47.1% are urban in Cuba. In the different provinces this proportion varies from 77.4% in Havana, 51.2% in Matanzas and 40.1% in Puerto Principe to 33.2% in Santiago and only 12.9% in Pinar del Rio. The number of cities of 1,000 inhabitants or more, which it is possible to give separately, is 96. Of these 16 have a population of 8,000 and over, 5 a population in excess of 25,000, and one, Havana, a population of 235,981.

To Bulletin No. I is appended Table I, which gives the population of Cuba by provinces, municipal districts and barrios, and Table II, containing a list of the cities of 1000 and over, with their populations.

The results of the census concerning race, sex and age of the Cuban people have brought out most interesting conditions. The whole population has been divided into five race and nativity classes, viz., native whites, foreign whites, mixed, negro and Chinese. The present census establishes the fact that in every province in Cuba the native whites are in a majority. This fact has an especial bearing on the suffrage restrictions which have been made in the island, and it has been fully discussed in Bulletin No. III. Native whites are, proportionally, especially numerous in Puerto Principe, the pastoral province, and in Pinar del Rio, parts of which are rather inaccessible to the colonizer. In the city of Havana, owing to the large element of foreign birth, they formed a trifle less than half, 49%. The native whites are 57.8% of the total population, the colored, including mixed, amount to 32%, the foreign-born to only 9% and the Chinese to less than 1%. The colored element is less strong than has been supposed, and the records show that the proportion has steadily decreased in the last hundred years, as in the United States. Forty years ago the colored population is known to have been three-fourths males, and by the present census it is more than half females. The early excess of males was due, of course, to the constant supply of male slaves brought in, and the present population consists of a new generation, which is in the normal ratio. The colored were in largest numbers in Santiago, where they were 45%, and least numerous in Puerto Principe, which contained 20% colored. In Havana city they were 27.3%. The Chinese also have steadily decreased—from 34,834, in 1861, to 14,857 at present. The foreign-born are

centred in Havana city, in which they are 22.4% of the entire population. They grade away from the city in the following ratios: 8.8% in the rural portion of Havana province, 7.5% in Matanzas and 6% in Pinar del Rio; in Puerto Principe the proportion is very small, and in Santiago it is only 4%. The key to the situation is found in the fact that the Spanish population, which is three-fourths of the whole foreign population of the island, is also concentrated in the city of Havana, being 20% out of the total of 22.4% foreign-born; the proportion of the foreign born which is not Spanish steadily increases with remoteness from Havana. The fact is, the Spanish came to the island principally in political interests and the other foreign whites for commercial and agricultural purposes. The figures on citizenship appear rather diverse when compared with the race statistics: 83% of the entire population claimed Cuban citizenship, only 1% Spanish and five per cent. other than Spanish or Cuban; 11% were recorded as being in suspense, having not yet signified their intentions. Apparently 5% out of the 88% of the Cuban-born are citizens of other countries, being the children perhaps of foreign-born, and only 1% out of the 9% of Spanish birth are Cuban citizens, the remainder being classed mostly with those in suspense. The foreign citizens were bunched in Havana city and the purest Cuban citizenship was found in Santiago. Citizens of countries other than Cuba and Spain were twice as numerous in the rural part of Havana province as in the city [11.6% as opposed to 5.3%].

A constant characteristic of the population of Cuba since 1775, as quoted by Humboldt, has been an excess of males, caused by the fact of the island's belonging to the class of countries exploited to a large extent by foreigners. In fact, the only races showing an excess of males are the foreign white and the Chinese; the mixed, negroes and native whites all having an excess of females in the census of '99. This race distinction is further emphasized by the fact that since 1887 the number of males and females have apparently changed in opposite directions, that of the females increasing 14,924 and that of the males decreasing 51,202. The loss of males is due, of course, partly to the return home of foreigners, driven away by the disturbances, although reduction in the number of native males, consequent on the war, has had its share. The excess of males is greatest in those western provinces where the foreign element is strongest. The total excess of males is 57,613, or 3.6% of the entire population. Cuba differs from Jamaica, Porto Rico and the Bahamas in this respect and resembles the United States.

The conjugal condition of the Cubans is characterized by a smaller proportion of married than any European country or the United States. There is present also in Cuba a third class, which is found in some Catholic countries where canonical marriage is difficult and expensive, that is, people participating in unions by mutual consent only. By the present census for the first time this class has been recognized and the statistics counted in with the true marriage statistics. The proportion of those participating in these unions varies from 4% of the total population in Puerto Principe to 12% in Santiago, and varies indirectly as the percentage of regular marriages, which range from 12.4% in Santiago to 19.5% in Puerto Principe. The two classes together give a married population of less than one-fourth [24.1%] for the whole island—a proportion much smaller than in the United States, where it was 35.7%, and even smaller than in the State which had the lowest percentage, Arizona, with 30.7%.

The age statistics are found to emphasize strongly the effects of the island's painful struggle. Not only is there a large deficit in children born in the last five years, but adults and old people are in smaller than normal numbers. These deficiencies follow the gain and loss in numbers of the total population. The percentage of children under five varies from 11.1% in Puerto Principe and 9.8% in Santiago to 7.9% in Matanzas and 7.3% in Havana. In the city of Havana it was 7.6%, and in the rural portion of the province it was only 7.1%. The average for the whole island was only 8.3%; while in Jamaica it was 13%, in Barbados 13.6%, and in the United States 12.2%; from the figures of the last Spanish census of Cuba, which gave age statistics [that of 1861], it is possible to estimate the normal percentage in Cuba of children under five, and this is found to be 12% of the total population. This indicates “a deficiency of about 60,000 children under five, which must be attributed to recent events in the island.” The deficiency in old persons is due to other causes than the war.

“The per cent. of the population belonging to this group was 14.2, while in the United States it was 17.2. But this relatively small number of elderly persons in Cuba is not a new characteristic. Indeed, in 1861 the proportion was somewhat less. It probably results from unsanitary conditions, ignorance regarding care of health, and poverty, all of which are widely prevalent among certain classes in the island. These causes operate to produce short average duration of life, and have perhaps been reinforced by another, the depletion of the age class of over 45 among the foreign-born through their return to Spain, China or elsewhere after their work in Cuba is over.”

The percentages in the age groups of from 17 to 20 and 21 to 44 are about equal to the same in the United States, and that there is

a deficiency in these groups appears only from the fact that the age groups of under 5 and over 45 are also small. The age group which appears to have suffered least from the war, and which comprises four-fifths of the extra percentage, is that of school age, 5 to 17.

"These children represent the survivors of those born in Cuba between 1882 and 1894, together with a negligible number of immigrants."

They were 35.2% of the entire population, and, compared with the same class in the United States, would give 119 children where the United States would give 100. They appear to be distributed among the provinces much as are the children under five, except that it is Havana city that has the fewest instead of the province outside.

In connection with this class of children of school age, which is so large at present in Cuba, it is of interest to examine the school and literacy statistics. Only 16.3% of these children attended school the year of the census. The proportion of the total population over ten years of age who could read was 43.4%—rather more than two-fifths. Comparing this with the percentage of literates in the last two Spanish censuses of Cuba, it is found that there has been a steady increase:—1861, 19%; 1887, 28%; 1899, 36%. The illiterates are distributed in the provinces according to the percentage of urban population, and vary from 38.8% in Havana and 50.9% in Puerto Principe to 65.8% in Santiago and 76.2% in Pinar del Rio. In Bulletin III the literacy of the male population of voting age is shown by race and nativity, and is found to be distributed as follows: of the white Cuban citizens 51% were unable to read, of the colored Cuban citizens 74% were unable to read, and of the Spanish citizens 12% were unable to read. This disparity between the races is not enough, however, to give the foreign voters a majority in any of the provinces. It has been found safe to abide by the provisions of the election laws, which gave the suffrage only to those who could read and write, or to owners of \$200 property, or to soldiers in the Cuban army. The following table sums the subject up.

Proportion of literate males of voting age who were born in Cuba to all literate males:

[PROVINCE.]		[PROVINCE.]	
Havana City	45%	Havana [excluding city]	66%
Pinar del Rio	59%	Santiago	70%
Matanzas	61%	Puerto Principe	76%
Santa Clara	63%		